

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-20 SIL-01 CU-05 LAB-06 EB-11

CIAE-00 INR-11 NSAE-00 RSC-01 IGA-02 DRC-01 L-03 /082 W

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R 261938Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7021

C O N F I D E N T I A L MONTEVIDEO 2094

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ELAB, UY

SUBJ: AIFLD PROGRAM

REF: STATE A) 161034, B) 161609

SUMMARY: I APPRECIATE THE DEPARTMENT'S BACKING AS CONVEYED IN REFTEL. I HAVE HAD A SATISFACTORY MEETING ON THIS WITH AIFLD DIRECTOR MOORE AND ALSO APPRECIATE WASHINGTON DIRECTOR DOHERTY'S ATTITUDE. THIS AFTERNOON I MET WITH LABMINISTER ETCHEVERRY STIRLING. HE WILL PROMPTLY REPORT TO PRESIDENT BORDABERRY OUR DECISION TO CONTINUE THE PROGRAM FOR AT LEAST A FEW MONTHS PENDING FURTHER EVALUATION AND SAID THAT THIS DECISION COINCIDES WITH THE WISHES AND VIEW POINT OF URUGUAY. END SUMMARY.

1. I GREATLY APPRECIATE THE DEPARTMENTS SUPPORT FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS IN REFERENCE A AND B. FOLLOWING RECEIPT OF THE REFERENCE A) I HAD A TALK WITH AIFLD DIRECTOR ALVA MOORE WHICH WAS ENTIRELY SATISFACTORY FROM MY POINT OF VIEW. MR. MOORE ASSURED ME AGAIN THAT THE UNFORTUNATE SITUATION WHICH HAD ARISEN HERE WAS DUE NOT TO ADVERSE INTENT BUT RATHER MISUNDERSTANDING ON HIS PART THAT A RECOMMENDATION BY THE EMBASSY WAS NOT IN FACT A FINAL DECISION OF THE USG ON WHICH HE SHOULD ACT. HE WAS PLEASED AT THE EXTENSION OF TIME WHICH HAS BEEN AGREED UPON, ASSURED ME HE WOULD TAKE NO ACTION TO CONVEY THIS UNTIL I GAVE HIM CLEARANCE TO DO SO AND OFFERED FULLEST COOPERATION IN THE FUTURE. I AM ALSO APPRECIATIVE OF THE ATTITUDE TAKEN IN THIS REGARD BY MY OLD FRIEND, AIFLD WASHINGTON DIRECTOR DOHERTY.

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2. THIS AFTERNOON I CALLED ON LABMINISTER ETCHEVERRY STIRLING. AFTER WISHING HIM WELL IN HIS NEW PORTFOLIO I RAISED THE SUBJECT OF THE PRESSURES WHICH HAD BEEN MOUNTING HERE ON THE MATTER OF AIFLD. I THEN EXPLAINED AT SOME LENGTH THE NECESSITY OF THE USG TO RE-EVALUATE THESE PROGRAMS AND ESPECIALLY IN CIRCUMSTANCES WHERE BASIC CONDITIONS HAD CHANGED AS THEY HAD IN URUGUAY OVER THE LAST YEAR. I SAID THAT THESE NON-TRADITIONAL DEVELOPMENTS MADE IT IMPORTANT THAT WE DETERMINE WHETHER ON THE LONG RUN THE CONTINUED PRESENCE HERE OF AIFLD, RECOGNIZED AS A US AGENCY, WOULD BE ABLE TO MAKE REAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND WHETHER ANY SUCH ACCOMPLISHMENTS WOULD IN THE LONG RUN BE ENDURING IN SUCH A WAY AS TO SERVE THE INDIVIDUAL INTERESTS OF URUGUAY AND OF THE US, THEIR MUTUAL INTERESTS AND THE INTERESTS OF FREE LABOR UNIONISM. UNFORTUNATELY, I SAID, THE WORD GOT OUT THAT THE USG HAD DECIDED TO TERMINATE THIS PROGRAM WHEREAS NO SUCH DECISION ON A USG BASIS HAD ACTUALLY BEEN TAKEN. THIS GAVE RISE TO A NUMBER OF EXPRESSIONS OF CONCERN ON THE PART OF INTERESTED PARTIES, I SAID, INCLUDING EVEN THREATS TO PICKET THE EMBASSY, ETC.

3. I THEN TOLD THE MINISTER THAT I HAD COME TODAY TO TELL HIM WHAT THE ACTUAL DECISION OF THE USG HAD BEEN SINCE THIS HAD NOW BEEN MADE. I TOLD HIM THEN THAT IT HAD BEEN DECIDED TO ALLOW A FEW MORE MONTHS TO GO BY DURING WHICH TIME WE WOULD KEEP DEVELOPMENTS UNDER CLOSE OBSERVATIONS. I SAID THAT WE WOULD THEN MAKE A SEARCHING RE-EVALUATION AND A FINAL AND DEFINITE DECISION WOULD BE MADE. IF A DECISION IS MADE TO TERMINATE THE PROGRAM, I SAID, THIS WOULD PROBABLY HAPPEN AT THE END OF THE CURRENT CONTRACT PERIOD WHICH IS MARCH 31, 1975. BUT I SAID THAT ANY SUCH DECISION WOULD BE MADE SUFFICIENTLY IN ADVANCE THEREOF TO PERMIT AN ORDERLY WITHDRAWAL.

4. THE MINISTER TOLD ME HE WAS VERY PLEASED TO HAVE HAD MY VISIT, THAT HE APPRECIATED THE EXPLANATION I HAD GIVEN AND ALSO THE FACT THAT THE USG COULD BE CONCERNED ABOUT THE VIABILITY OF ITS PROGRAM UNDER CURRENT CONDITIONS IN URUGUAY. HE SAID, HOWEVER, THAT THE DECISION WHICH HAS BEEN TAKEN IS EXACTLY WHAT THE GOU WOULD WISH IT TO BE AND THAT HE FELT IT WOULD BE APPROPRIATE IN A FEW MONTHS TO DECIDE WHETHER OUR MUTUAL INTERESTS WILL BE SERVED BY THE CONTINUATION OF THE AIFLD PROGRAM HERE. HE SAID HE HAD HEARD OF THIS PROBLEM, FROM HIS PREDECESSOR AND FROM OTHER SOURCES SINCE HIS TAKING OVER THE MINISTRY OF LABOR AND THAT PRESIDENT

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BORDABERRY HAD RAISED IT WITH HIM. HE SAID THE PRESIDENT WOULD BE RELIEVED TO KNOW OF OUR DECISION TO CONTINUE THE PROGRAM FOR AT LEAST A FEW MORE MONTHS.

5. I BELIEVE THAT WITH THE ACTIONS ABOVE DESCRIBED THE SITUATION OUTLINED IN MY TELEGRAM 2040 HAS LARGELY BEEN PUT TO RIGHTS FOR THE TIME BEING. I WILL NOW INSTRUCT MR. MOORE TO ADVISE INTERESTED PARTIES OF THE USG DECISION WHILE AT THE SAME TIME INDICATING HOW

THE MISUNDERSTANDING CAME ABOUT AS COVERED IN RECOMMENDATION
(E) OF MVD 2040.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INSTRUCTIONS, LABOR INSTITUTES, PROGRAMS (PROJECTS), LABOR UNION OFFICIALS, LABOR OBJECTIVES, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 JUL 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: kelleyw0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974MONTEV02094
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740204-0131
From: MONTEVIDEO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740714/aaaaambv.tel
Line Count: 118
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: STATE A) 161034, B) 161609
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: kelleyw0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 SEP 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <23 SEP 2002 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <24 FEB 2003 by kelleyw0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AIFLD PROGRAM
TAGS: ELAB, UY, US, AIFLD, (STIRLING, ETCHEVERRY), (MOORE)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005